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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Yugoslavia
 SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture

DATE OF INFORMATION 1951

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 4 JAN 1952.

WHERE PUBLISHED Zagreb

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE PUBLISHED 30 Sep - 9 Oct 1951

LANGUAGE Serbo-Croatian

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES EXPANDED
IN CROATIA, MONTENEGRO, AND THE VOJVODINA

5,500 NEW HOUSEHOLDS JOIN FARM WORK COOPERATIVES IN THE VOJVODINA -- Zagreb, Borba, 8 Oct 51

Novi Sad, 7 October -- Internal and external enemies of socialism in Yugoslavia have circulated various rumors concerning farm work cooperatives. These enemies are employing the most unscrupulous methods to undermine the farmer's faith in the better life which exists in cooperatives. Because the older cooperatives have already grown into model socialist establishments in which the seeds of dissension could not be sown, enemies of the cooperatives have concentrated their efforts on those cooperatives which are completing the third year of their existence in 1951.

Rumors have been circulated in some sections that the government is preparing legislation by which all cooperatives will be made a fourth type [] and land which members brought into the cooperative will pass to the cooperative. Where these lies have not succeeded, rumors have been circulated to the effect that private farmers are free of obligations to the crop purchase plan and that they live better than members of cooperatives. The aim of all this propaganda has been to create dissatisfaction among members, so they will petition to withdraw from cooperatives they voluntarily joined 3 years ago.

The enemy, however, has miscalculated. Instead of mass withdrawals in the Vojvodina, farm work cooperatives now include over 5,500 more households than at the beginning of 1951, when there were 110,278 households.

In January alone, this number increased by 430; 85 of the new households admitted were in Becej Srez alone, where the "Tisa" Farm Work Cooperative has admitted the largest number of members in 1951, including about 100 households belonging to the Hungarian minority.

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In February, cooperatives in the Vojvodina admitted 640 new households. Sombor Srez alone admitted 86 households at that time, while over 100 were admitted in Subotica Srez.

In March, the largest number of households were admitted to cooperatives in Novi Sad Srez, followed by Kovacica and Stara Pazova srezas.

In April, the greatest influx was into cooperatives in Senta Srez, and, in May, in Backa Topola Srez.

In June, cooperatives in the Vojvodina admitted 600 new households, 170 of them in Novi Sad Srez alone.

Many households join cooperatives as soon as the harvest is completed. In August, 650 sought admittance and 630 were accepted.

New farm work cooperatives were also established in 1951. One of these is the cooperative formed in April by the Hungarian minority in Vrbica in Novi Knezevac Srez.

The expansion of cooperatives in 1951 has also brought about the expulsion from cooperatives of all those members who were unwilling to work, and who attempted to spread dissension among members. At meetings and conferences members were unanimous when it became necessary to expel such persons. In January, six slackers were expelled in Becej Srez and 11 in Subotica Srez. Slackers were also expelled in Jasa Tomic Srez, and individual expulsions occurred in cooperatives in other srezes.

Over 116,000 households now belong to 730 farm work cooperatives in the Vojvodina. With the admission of new members, the cooperative land area has also increased considerably. Farm work cooperatives have about 4.4 percent more land today than private households; including the state farms, the socialist sector today includes over 60 percent of all the land in the Vojvodina.

Private households now have fewer pigs and sheep than cooperatives and their members. Private individuals own about 350,000 pigs, while cooperatives have about 170,000 pigs in their pens and 220,000 on the private plots of their members, or two pigs per private plot and barely more than one pig per private household.

Cooperatives have about 130,000 sheep in their pens and fields, and members have about 115,000 on their private plots. The average for private owners is considerably lower than it is for private plots of members. Private households have many more horses, especially work horses. However, cooperatives have about 1,600 tractors, almost five times as many as are privately owned.

In cattle breeding, cooperatives have concentrated primarily on productive cows. About 55 percent of the cattle on cooperatives are cows. Over 50 percent of the households included in cooperatives have about one cow on their private plots.

Expansion of farm work cooperatives in the Vojvodina in 1951 shows that the working farmers are joining cooperatives more and more. In addition to the poor farmers, more and more medium-size households are joining cooperatives; of the total number of new households admitted in 1951, 40 percent were of medium size. In spite of enemy propaganda, the cooperative peasants see but one way to a better life. -- R. Lukic

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REHABILITATE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES IN MONTENEGRO -- Zagreb, Borba, 9 Oct 51

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Titograd, 8 October -- In 1950, Montenegro had about 130 general agricultural cooperatives. Only 21 were in active operation; the rest were completely inactive. This was primarily the result of a mistaken conception regarding the longevity of general cooperatives.

Early in July 1951, a conference was held by the Main Cooperative Council of Montenegro to discuss the rehabilitation of these cooperatives. Srez councils had to be organized and shown the substance of their work, and the relation of individual people's agencies to the cooperative councils and the cooperatives had to be explained.

The situation in the cooperatives and the councils was thus improved considerably. Montenegro today has 84 cooperatives and 12 srez councils, and work is now in progress on the rehabilitation of 15 more cooperatives and the establishment of a srez council in Durmitor Srez.

Still unsolved is the question of space and personnel which were taken away from general cooperatives and not always returned. Transportation equipment, credit, etc., are still being distributed slowly and ineffectively. The people's council of Niksic Srez has not yet returned the necessary commercial personnel to the srez cooperative council, thus preventing the establishment of a commercial agency. The supervisor trained by the Cetinje Srez Council has not yet been returned to the council but is being retained by the People's Bank in Titograd. The Andrijevic Srez Council still has only one clerk. Not only have personnel taken away from the Hercegnovi Srez Council in 1950 not been returned, but a certain number of technical administrative personnel have been taken away in the meantime. The bookkeeper of the general agricultural cooperative in Lijeva Rijeka in Titograd Srez has been made registrar for the municipal people's council.

The state commercial enterprise has not been paying cooperatives when it takes over goods from them; debts are still outstanding for 1950. Although the People's Bank issued instructions on granting credit to cooperatives, its affiliates in the srezes have not obeyed instructions. They frequently do not grant credit because they fail to take individual conditions in cooperatives into account. In addition, the srez people's council commissions are distributing credit inequitably. Only a small part of the credit allocated for distribution to the srez is distributed to cooperatives. Thus far, 84 cooperatives have been granted only 143,000 dinars for industrial goods, and 10,300 dinars for crop purchase of medicinal herbs.

Lack of space in individual srezes also hinders development of general agricultural cooperatives. The cooperative in Murina in Andrijevac Srez has no space of its own, for the elementary school is now occupying the cooperative center.

General cooperatives in Montenegro have excellent conditions for the development of the local economy, hotelkeeping, and general agricultural production. Many have been successful thus far, especially those in Hercegnovi and Andrijevic srezes.

NEW COOPERATIVES ESTABLISHED IN CROATIA -- Zagreb, Borba, 30 Sep 51

Zagreb, 29 September -- Following the unsuccessful attempts of speculators to sabotage cooperatives in individual villages, Croatian farmers are beginning to establish new farm work cooperatives. This is most apparent in Bjelovar Oblast, where several farm work cooperatives have been established recently or are in process of being established in Apatovac, Krizevci Srez, and Ludbreg and Djurdjevac srezes.

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Farm work cooperatives, which were well organized and where the members worked regularly, had good yields in 1951 which were better than on private farms. The cooperative in Valpovo Srez had an average yield of 15 metric centners of wheat per hectare. All the cooperatives in this srez delivered their quotas of grain to the crop purchase plan, and also had surpluses left for their free disposal. This prompted the farmers to join the already established cooperatives while preparations are being made to establish new ones.

The "Karlo Mrazovic" Cooperative in Kozarac in Beli Manastir Srez shows what can be achieved with good work organization and good cooperation of members. This cooperative had a yield of 7 metric centners of grain per hectare, and had a surplus of 5 wagonloads after fulfilling its crop purchase quota. The members are now even more willing to work; all the land is already prepared for the fall sowing, and the preparations for beginning the sowing are complete.

The "Baranja" Farm Work Cooperative, which is in the same village, has had much smaller yields, and its preparations for the fall sowing are incomplete because of the poor work organization and unsatisfactory cooperation of its members.

Farm work cooperatives in Croatia are now working on setting up bookkeeping systems. The Foundations for Mechanization in all srezes have assumed the responsibility of helping two or three cooperatives in setting up bookkeeping systems and have already begun this work. Experts from the Directorate for Cooperative Agriculture are now working on setting up bookkeeping systems in the "Koca Popovic" Cooperative in Dubica, which is the largest cooperative in Croatia.

"JERKO IVANCIC" FARM WORK COOPERATIVE AMONG BEST IN CROATIA -- Zagreb, Borba, 9 Oct 51

Split, 8 October -- The "Jerko Ivancic" Farm Work Cooperative was established early in 1946. Its policy of rewarding each according to his work has made this cooperative one of the best in Croatia.

The cooperative includes 105 households and 130 hectares of land. Members have utilized to the fullest the Mediterranean climate, the streams, and the Split water supply system, and have concentrated primarily on growing vegetables. Up to four crops have been grown in one year. The cooperative obtains an average of five to eight wagonloads of vegetables per hectare; on the land below Marjan, worked by a group led by Ante Tvrdic, the yield is up to 15 wagonloads per hectare.

Ante Tvrdic is a former unemployed laborer who was 30,000 dinars in debt when he joined the cooperative. Today he has a fine home, has repaid his debts, has acquired furniture and a radio, has clothed the members of his household becomingly, and has even saved a large sum of money.

All members of the "Jerko Ivancic" Cooperative have radios, although they could not even think of such a luxury before joining the cooperative. By working together they assured the cooperative a large income during the first half of 1951. The cooperative received 16 million dinars for vegetables sold during this period, and 200,000 dinars in foreign exchange for vegetables it exported. In 1951, its produce was sold in Munich, Vienna, and Graz. The cooperative has contracted to export six wagonloads of cauliflower in December, for which it will receive more than one half million foreign exchange dinars, with which it will purchase machinery and transportation equipment abroad.

Members of the cooperative are paid monthly. For the first half of 1951 each member received about 30,000 dinars and a larger amount in coupons in lieu of cash advances. It is expected that the value of each workday this year will be about 600 dinars per worker.

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